



Current Status of Claims

1. *(canceled)*

2. *(canceled)*

3. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [2] 34, wherein said device for providing the non-validated token is a printer which is controlled by a selection panel that displays articles for which a non-validated token can be printed on activation thereof, and wherein the non-validated token carries article type information selected from the group consisting of : a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, a manually interpretable article identification code, animation of the article, article name, and article price.

4. *(canceled)*

5. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [±] 33, wherein the article type information is selected from the group consisting of: a code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, and a manually interpretable article identification code.

6. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 5, wherein the article type information is additionally selected from the group consisting of: animation of the article, article name and article price.

7. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [±] 33, wherein the second transaction code is selected from the group consisting of:
a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, a series of numbers, a series of letters, a series of a combination of numbers and letters, at least one row of punched holes, a programmable IC chip, and a pre-programmed IC chip.

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

8. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [±] **33**, wherein communication between the checkout unit and the article dispensing device is selected from the group consisting of:

- ultrasound transmission,
- 5 - electro-optical transmission,
- rf transmission,
- bluetooth transmission
- wired transmission,
- transmission via a retailer's or trader's central computer unit, and general
- 10 merchandise transaction control unit.

9. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [±] **33**, wherein the checkout unit [~~comprises or is connected to~~] **includes** a transaction code encoder device [~~the checkout unit also comprising~~] **and** a scanner device for scanning the non-validated token, wherein said scanner device is for communicating

5 information to the encoder device, the checkout unit communicating with the article dispensing device via said token encoder device, wherein the token encoder device transmits said information to a cash register in said checkout unit for processing during a payment receipt operation, and wherein the encoder device also has a control unit for controlling a device for

10 transmitting said first transaction code communication to the article dispensing device.

10. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [±] **33**, wherein the second transaction code on the validated token is entered in the comparator device through machine reading of the second transaction code, said machine being selected from the group consisting of:

- 5 - OCR reader,
- optical scanner for scanning a bar code or an EAN code,
- an electromagnetic magnetic strip reader,
- an IC chip reader,
- a punched hole reader, and
- 10 - an rf label code reader.

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

11. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [±] **[33]**, wherein the article dispensing device has a manually operated **device selected from the group consisting of a** keypad, keyboard [ø±] **and** touch screen for input of a manually readable
5 second transaction code on the validated token into the comparator unit.

12. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [±] **[33]**, wherein the first transaction code which is communicated to the article dispensing device and the second transaction code provided on the validated token are the same codes or codes
5 that are related to each other, and selected from the group consisting of complementary codes, symmetrical codes and unsymmetrical codes.

13. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [±] **[33]**, wherein the selection panel on the selection panel device is a touch screen.

14. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [±] **[33]**, wherein the validated token [~~is a part of or consists of~~] **includes the** packaging for the article that is to be dispensed
or a part of said packaging.

15. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [2] **34**, wherein the validated token [~~is a part of or consists of~~] **includes the** packaging for the article that is to be dispensed **or a part of said packaging** and wherein said second transaction code on the validated token is on the processing thereof in the checkout unit
5 applicable to the packaging or part thereof, transmittable to the packaging or part thereof, or provided by uncovering an area on the packaging or part thereof that bears the transaction code.

16. *(canceled)*

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

5

17. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [2] **34**, wherein communication between the checkout unit and the article dispensing device is selected from the group consisting of:

- ultrasound transmission,
- 5 - electro-optical transmission,
- rf transmission,
- bluetooth transmission
- wired transmission, transmission via a retailer's or trader's central computer unit and general merchandise transaction control unit.

18. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [2] **34**, wherein the checkout unit [~~comprises or is connected to~~] **includes** a transaction code encoder device[, ~~the checkout unit also comprising~~] **and** a scanner device for scanning the non-validated token, wherein the scanner device is for communicating said information to
5 the encoder device, the checkout unit communicating with the article dispensing device via said token encoder device, wherein the token encoder device transmits said information to a cash register in said checkout unit for processing during a payment receipt operation, and wherein the encoder device also has a control unit for controlling a printer for the issue of the
10 validated article token, and a device for transmitting said communication relating to said first transaction code to the article dispensing device.

19. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [2] **34**, wherein the second transaction code on the validated token is entered in the comparator device through machine reading of the transaction code, said machine being selected from the group consisting of:

- 5 - OCR reader,
- optical scanner for scanning a bar code or an EAN code,
- an electromagnetic magnetic strip reader,
- an IC chip reader,
- a punched hole reader, and
- 10 - an rf label code reader.

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

20. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [2] 34, wherein the article dispensing device has a manually operated **device selected from the group consisting of a** keypad, keyboard [øf] **and** touch screen for input of a manually readable
5 transaction code on the validated token into the comparator unit.

21. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [2] 34, wherein the first transaction code which is communicated to the article dispensing device and the second transaction code provided on the validated token are the same codes or codes that are related to each other, and are selected from the group consisting of
5 complementary codes, symmetrical codes and unsymmetrical codes.

22. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [2] 34, wherein the article type information is selected from the group consisting of: a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code,
5 and a manually interpretable article identification code.

23. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [2] 34, wherein the article type information is additionally selected from the group consisting of: animation of the article, article name, and article price.

24. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [2] 34, wherein the second transaction code is selected from the group consisting of:
a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, a series of numbers, a series of
5 letters, a series of a combination of numbers and letters, at least one row of punched holes, a programmable IC chip, and a pre-programmed IC chip.

25. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [2] 34, wherein the selection panel on the selection panel device is a touch screen.

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

26. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [2] 34, wherein the validated token ~~[is a part of or consists of]~~ **includes the** packaging for the article that is to be dispensed **or a part of said packaging**.

27. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [2] 34, wherein the second transaction code on the validated token is on the processing thereof in the checkout unit applicable to the packaging or part thereof, transmittable to the packaging or part thereof, or provided by uncovering an area on the packaging or part thereof that carries the transaction code.

28. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 2, wherein the checkout unit ~~[comprises or is connected to]~~ **includes** a transaction code encoder device ~~[, the checkout unit also comprising]~~ **and** a scanner device for scanning the non-validated token, wherein the scanner device is for communicating information to the encoder device, said checkout unit communicating with the article dispensing device via said token encoder device, wherein said token encoder device transmits said information to a cash register in said checkout unit for processing during a payment receipt operation, wherein the encoder device is cooperative with a token dispenser which provides tokens with said second transaction code for validation by scanning in the checkout unit, and wherein said encoder device controls a device for transmitting said first transaction codes to the article dispensing device.

29. *(canceled)*

30. *(canceled)*

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

31. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [29] **35**, wherein

the second transaction code is selectively available from the group consisting of:

a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, a series of numbers, a series of letters, a series of a combination of numbers and letters, at least one row of punched holes, a programmable IC chip , and a pre-programmed IC chip.

32. *(currently amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim [30] **36**, wherein

the second transaction code is selectively available from the group consisting of:

a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, a series of numbers, a series of letters, a series of a combination of numbers and letters, at least one row of punched holes, a programmable IC chip , and a pre-programmed IC chip.

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

33. (new)

A system for the sale of consumer goods comprising,

- a) an article token selection panel device activatable by a customer, the device displaying articles of merchandise or representations thereof for selection by a customer upon activation of the device,
- 5 b) a printer controlled by the article token selection panel device for providing a customer with a non-validated token that corresponds to an article of merchandise selected by the customer, when the article token selection panel device is activated by the customer,
- 10 c) the printer having means for printing the non-validated token with article identifying information for the article of merchandise selected by the customer upon activation of the article token selection panel device,
- d) said article identifying information including information related to a unique token number and the type of article of merchandise selected by the customer, and wherein the unique token number is selected from the group consisting of,
 - 15 (i) a serially generated code,
 - (ii) a randomly generated code,
 - (iii) a predetermined series of codes, and
 - (iv) a unique token number generated serially or randomly,
- 20 e) a checkout unit having,
 - (i) means for checking the article-identifying information on the non-validated token,
 - (ii) means for receiving payment from the customer for the article of merchandise identified by the article identifying information on the non-validated token,
 - 25 (iii) means for generating a first transaction code after payment for the article has been received, and
 - (iv) means for providing the customer with a validated token having a second transaction code,wherein the unique token number provided on the non-validated token constitutes the second transaction code on the validated token,
- 30 f) an article dispensing device in communication with said checkout unit for receiving the first transaction code generated by the checkout unit after the article of merchandise has been paid for at the checkout unit, and
- 35 g) a comparator cooperable with the article dispensing device and having means for comparing the first transaction code with the second transaction code on the validated token, and when there is a predetermined code correspondence, enabling said article dispensing device to dispense the article of merchandise for access by the customer.

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

34. (new)

A system for the sale of consumer goods comprising,

- a) an article token selection panel device activatable by a customer, the device displaying articles of merchandise or representations thereof for selection by a customer upon activation of the device,
- b) the article token selection panel device having means for providing a customer with a non-validated token that corresponds to an article of merchandise selected by the customer, when the article token selection panel device is activated by the customer,
- c) the non-validated token having article identifying information for the article of merchandise selected by the customer upon activation of the article token selection panel device,
- d) said article identifying information including information related to a unique token number and the type of article of merchandise selected by the customer,
- e) a checkout unit having,
 - (i) means for checking the article-identifying information on the non-validated token,
 - (ii) means for receiving payment from the customer for the article of merchandise identified by the article identifying information on the non-validated token,
 - (iii) means for generating a first transaction code after payment for the article has been received, and
 - (iv) means for providing the customer with a validated token that substitutes for or supplements the non-validated token, said validated token having a second transaction code selected from the group consisting of,
 - a serially generated code,
 - a randomly generated code,
 - a predetermined series of codes, and
 - a unique token number generated serially or randomly by the article token selection panel device which provides such number on the non-validated token,
- f) the validated token provided by said checkout unit being selected from the group consisting of,
 - a token dispenser,
 - a token printer, and
 - a supply of pre-made, non-alterable, reusable, revalidatable and machine-readable tokens,
- g) an article dispensing device in communication with said checkout unit for receiving the first transaction code generated by the checkout unit after the article of merchandise has been paid for at the checkout unit, and
- h) a comparator cooperable with the article dispensing device and having means for comparing the first transaction code with the second transaction code on the validated token, and when there is a predetermined code correspondence, enabling said article dispensing device to dispense the article of merchandise for access by the customer.

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

35. (new)

A system for the sale of consumer goods comprising,

- a) an article token selection panel device activatable by a customer, the device displaying articles of merchandise or representations thereof for selection by a customer upon activation of the device,
- b) the article token selection panel device having means for providing a customer with a non-validated token that corresponds to an article of merchandise selected by the customer, when the article token selection panel device is activated by the customer,
- c) the non-validated token having article identifying information for the article of merchandise selected by the customer upon activation of the article token selection panel device, the article identifying information including at least a part of the packaging of the article of merchandise that is to be dispensed to the customer,
- d) said article identifying information including information related to a unique token number and/or the type of article of merchandise selected by the customer,
- e) a checkout unit having,
 - (i) means for checking the article-identifying information on the non-validated token,
 - (ii) means for receiving payment from the customer for the article of merchandise identified by the article identifying information on the non-validated token,
 - (iii) means for generating a first transaction code after payment for the article has been received, and
 - (iv) means for providing the customer with a validated token having a second transaction code selected from the group consisting of,
 - a serially generated code,
 - a randomly generated code,
 - a predetermined series of codes, and
 - a unique token number generated serially or randomly by the article token selection panel device which provides such number on the non-validated token,
- f) wherein the second transaction code on the validated token is obtained in a manner selected from the group consisting of,
 - (i) applying the second transaction code to the packaging of the article of merchandise that is to be dispensed to the customer or said part of the packaging,
 - (ii) transmitting the second transaction code to the packaging of the article of merchandise that is to be dispensed to customer or said part of the packaging, and
 - (iii) revealing the second transaction code by uncovering an area on the packaging of the article of merchandise that is to be dispensed to the customer or on said part of the packaging,
- g) an article dispensing device in communication with said checkout unit for receiving the first transaction code generated by the checkout unit after the article of merchandise has been paid for at the checkout unit, and
- h) a comparator cooperable with the article dispensing device and having means for comparing the first transaction code with the second transaction code on the validated token, and when there is a predetermined code correspondence, enabling said article dispensing device to dispense the article of merchandise for access by the customer.

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

36. (new)

A system for the sale of consumer goods comprising,

- a) an article token selection panel device activatable by a customer, the device displaying articles of merchandise or representations thereof for selection by a customer upon activation of the device,
- b) the article token selection panel device having means for providing a customer with a non-validated token that corresponds to an article of merchandise selected by the customer, when the article token selection panel device is activated by the customer,
- c) the non-validated token having article identifying information for the article of merchandise selected by the customer upon activation of the article token selection panel device, the article identifying information including the packaging of the article of merchandise that is to be dispensed to the customer or a part of said packaging,
- d) said article identifying information including information related to a unique token number and the type of article of merchandise selected by the customer,
- e) a checkout unit having,
 - (i) means for checking the article-identifying information on the non-validated token,
 - (ii) means for receiving payment from the customer for the article of merchandise identified by the article identifying information on the non-validated token,
 - (iii) means for generating a first transaction code after payment for the article has been received, and
 - (iv) means for providing the customer with a validated token having a second transaction code by validating the non-validated token and wherein the unique token number provided on the non-validated token constitutes the second transaction code, and is selected from the group consisting of,
 - a serially generated code,
 - a randomly generated code,
 - a predetermined series of codes, and
- f) wherein the second transaction code on the validated token is obtained in a manner selected from the group consisting of,
 - (i) applying the second transaction code to the packaging of the article of merchandise that is to be dispensed to the customer or said part of the packaging,
 - (ii) transmitting the second transaction code to the packaging of the article of merchandise that is to be dispensed to the customer or said part of the packaging, and
 - (iii) revealing the second transaction code by uncovering an area on the packaging of the article of merchandise that is to be dispensed to the customer or on said part of the packaging,
- g) an article dispensing device in communication with said checkout unit for receiving the first transaction code generated by the checkout unit after the article of merchandise has been paid for at the checkout unit, and
- h) a comparator cooperable with the article dispensing device and having means for comparing the first transaction code with the second transaction code on the validated token, and when there is a predetermined code correspondence, enabling said article dispensing device to dispense the article of merchandise for access by the customer.